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TAGS: [NATO](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)
SUBJECT: RFG: NOMINATION OF U.S. CANDIDATE FOR THE
STRATEGIC CONCEPT EXPERTS GROUP

Classified By: A/POLAD A. "Hoot" Baez for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (C/NF) This is a request for guidance. See paragraph 3.

The Call for Nomination

12. (C/NF) The Danish Representative to NATO, in his capacity as dean of the Council, passed a letter from Secretary General-designate Rasmussen to the Allies on May 26 (see para 5). The letter asked Allied nations to submit their candidates for the group of experts to advise the SYG in developing the Strategic Concept. Nations interested in hosting a seminar for the Strategic Concept process were also asked to indicate interest.

13. (C/NF) Request for Guidance: We request guidance for the U.S. candidates and any other response or comment to the Secretary General-designate's letter by COB June 12, Central European Time. Nations may put forward multiple names, but maximum of one from each would be drawn.

Names Already in Circulation

14. (C/NF) The Policy Planning Unit of the SYG's Private Office shared with USNATO names of candidates already put forward by seven nations:

-- France: Bruno Racine. Racine began his service as foreign minister in the cabinet of Alain Juppe in 1993. He was also in Jacques Chirac's cabinet.

-- Germany: Hans-Friedrich von Ploetz. Ploetz was the German PermRep to NATO from 1989 to 1993 and later ambassador to the UK and Russia.

-- Italy: Giancarlo Aragona. Aragona was formerly the Italian Deputy Chief of Mission at NATO in the late eighties and served as the second OSCE Secretary General.

-- Poland: Adam Rotfeld. Rotfeld was Poland's foreign minister in 2005; he was also a member of the SYG's wisemen group for the Declaration on Alliance Security.

-- Portugal: Antonio Vitorino. Vitorino was the Defense Minister and deputy prime minister in the first government of Antonio Guterres. He later became the European Commissioner for Justice and Home Affairs.

-- Spain: Fernando Perpina. Perpina was previously Spain's deputy secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as Spain's ambassador to Hungary and Consul General in Paris.

-- Turkey: Mit Pamir. Pamir was the Turkish PermRep to NATO from 2004 - 2006.

COMMENT: PPU thought the relatively low level and unevenness of the list above showed a lack of consultation and as a result, some nations have nominated "negotiators" rather than big thinkers to propound and protect national positions and interests. END COMMENT

15. (SBU) BEGIN TEXT of SYG-designate Rasmussen's letter:

-- In the "Declaration on Alliance Security" issued by Heads of State and Government at the Strasbourg/Kehl Summit, the Heads of State and Government tasked the Secretary General to convene and lead a broad-based group of qualified experts, who in close consultation with all Allies will lay the ground for the Secretary General to develop a new Strategic Concept and submit proposals for its implementation at our next summit. The Secretary General will keep the Council in permanent session involved throughout the process.

-- While the current Secretary General will convene and chair a first seminar on the issue of a new Strategic Concept in Brussels on 7 July, the Secretary General and Secretary General Designate have agreed to leave it to the Secretary General Designate to launch the process of convening and

leading a broad-based group of qualified experts. This note sets out how the Secretary General Designate intends to proceed on the composition of the group of qualified experts.

-- The composition of the "broad-based groups of qualified experts" (in the following "The Group") will be decided by the Secretary General Designate and announced shortly after the Secretary General Designate takes up his position as Secretary General on 1 August 2009. The members of The Group will be appointed by the Secretary General in their personal capacities as they will be expected to contribute to the work of The Group freely and unconstrained by national positions.

-- The Group, while broad-based, will have significantly fewer members than the number of Allies (less than half).

-- The Secretary General Designate in deciding The Group's composition will take into account not only the individual candidates' personal and professional qualifications but also a set of wider issues, including, but not necessarily limited to, the need for balances regarding geography, "old" vs. "new" Allies; and "small" vs. "big" Allies. The Secretary General Designate will also interpret "broad-based" to mean a desire to have not only "NATO-insiders" such as former Permanent Representatives in The Group but also "outsiders" with a background in for instance NGOs, the academic community or the private sector.

-- There is no single indisputably ideal configuration for such a group. Not every Ally can be expected to be equally content with The Group's composition. However, the Secretary General Designate will do his utmost to strike the best possible balance.

-- To aid the Secretary General Designate in these efforts, Allies are invited to put forward candidates for The Group. In order to help the Secretary General Designate ensure that The Group is heterogeneous also in terms of expertise brought to the table, Allies may wish to present more than one candidate. However, to ensure the balances referred to above, no Ally will have more than one of its nationals in The Group.

-- While members of The Group would be appointed in their personal capacities, their governments would be expected to

cover all expenses pertaining to their participation in The Group's work.

-- Allies that wish to submit candidates for The Group should do so through the Dean of the North Atlantic Council no later than Friday 12 June 2009.

-- The incoming Secretary General, soon after assuming his post, will lay out his intentions on other procedural elements in more detail. One of these elements will be a string of seminars in the Autumn of 2009 and the first few months of 2010, the first of which is the seminar on 7 July, where the participation of candidates for The Group is encouraged.

-- Subsequent seminars, of which 3-4 are envisaged, and for which the participation of Permanent Representatives would be very welcome, would ideally be held outside of Brussels, as this would allow for wider involvement in the process leading up to the development of a new Strategic Concept. Such seminars could be organized by think tanks in Allied nations with the support and advice on an IS team. Seminars could focus on issues such as a) the comprehensive approach and NATO's cooperation with other international organizations; b) collective defence, deterrence and operations in today's security environment; c) NATO's role in building security in the Euro-Atlantic area, enlargement and NATO's partnerships; d) capabilities, transformation and NATO-reform.

-- The Secretary General Designate would welcome offers from Allies to host one of these seminars, ideally also in the 12 June 2009 timeframe. END TEXT
DAALDER